

Safety Bulletin

Accident Rates In MND-B OIF SB-029

MND-B continues to experience extremely high rates of accidents and injuries. These are causing damage to equipment and injuries to Soldiers which results in lost combat power.

Personal Injuries (PI) lead all other accidents categories. This is the area where individual Soldier's have the most opportunity to prevent an accident. In many cases the Soldier fails to follow established standards, TTP's, or was unaware of them. This is indicative of a failure in the proper application and use of the Composite Risk Management Process. The hazards/behaviors that cause these accidents are also the most overlooked or accepted.

Causation or root cause factors included: "in a hurry" and "overconfident" and Composite Risk Management was rarely applied in the majority of all of our accidents. When applied, CRM was not conducted properly or the hazards and controls were not conveyed to the individual Soldier

Mitigations: Personal Injuries can best be prevented when SMs maintain situational awareness by evaluating each task prior to beginning that task. It is both the Leader and Soldiers responsibility to reduce or eliminate hazards as they are encountered whether on the battlefield conducting a patrol or while in the motorpool conducting maintenance. Additionally, using the battle buddy system and watching out for each other IOT stop unsafe acts.

Summary: The majority of our recorded accidents were preventable if someone would have taken action. We are having too many PI accidents followed closely by AMV, and ACV accidents. First and Second line Leaders supported and mentored by senior Leaders, have the most opportunities to halt our increasing accident rate. We need to continue to reach out to them and help them close the gap between perceived standards and Army standards. This must include holding personnel accountable for their actions, or inactions, in order to reinforce the mindset that accidents are not the cost of doing business.

